

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) In a device for delivering a supply of gases to a user comprising:  
a patient interface including a body portion, in use in fluid communication with said supply of gases and supplying said gases to said user, said body portion having and at least one outlet vent integrated with or in adjacent fluid communication the improvement comprising a removable diffusing member adapted to in use cover said vent, and diffuse a substantial portion of the expired gases of said user and at least one aperture to allow passing of gases to the atmosphere,  
a frame member mountable over said at least one aperture, and  
a diffusing member, said diffusing member being juxtaposed between said frame member and said at least one aperture.
2. (Currently Amended) In a device for delivering a supply of gases to a user as claimed in claim 1 ~~the improvement further comprising~~ wherein said removable diffusing member is removable and in use diffusing diffuses and audibly muffling muffles a substantial portion of the expired gases of said user.
3. (Currently Amended) In a device for delivering a supply of gases to a user as claimed in claim 2 ~~1 wherein the improvement further comprising said outlet means said at least one outlet vent including at least one~~ wherein said frame member and said body portion create a low resistance outlet in parallel with and at least one a high resistance outlet, where said low

resistance outlet allows said gases to exit to said atmosphere through said diffusing member and said high resistance outlet allows gases to exit directly to said atmosphere through which the expired gases of said user flow out through.

4. (Currently Amended) In a device for delivering a supply of gases to a user as claimed in claim 3 ~~the improvement further comprising~~ where during normal use the majority of said expired gases passing from said at least one outlet vent and out through said low resistance outlet, whereby if the majority of said expired gases are substantially prevented from passing through said low resistance outlet, the majority of said expiratory gases passing out said high resistance outlet.

5. (Currently Amended) In a device for delivering a supply of gases to a user as claimed in claims 3 or 4 ~~the improvement further comprising~~ wherein said high resistance outlet is ~~comprised of~~ comprises apertures formed in said frame member in said patient interface or said removable member or in the intersection between therebetween the frame member and said body portion.

6. (Currently Amended) In a device for delivering a supply of gases to a user as claimed in claims 3 or 4 ~~the improvement further comprising~~ wherein said high resistance outlet is being adapted such that in use said low resistance outlet is blocked or has significant increase in resistance, and said high resistance outlet vents a sufficient flow gas of gases so as to prevent rebreathing of carbon dioxide by said user.

7. (Currently Amended) In a device for delivering a supply of gases to a user as claimed in claims 3 or 4 ~~the improvement further comprising~~ wherein said ~~removable~~ diffusing member comprises a frame member and ~~is a disposable medium in use juxtaposed between said frame member and said vent, and~~ said low resistance outlet comprising the flow of said expired gases through said disposable medium.
8. (Currently Amended) In a device for delivering a supply of gases to a user as claimed in claim 7 ~~the improvement further comprising~~ wherein said disposable medium ~~reducing~~ reduces the external audible noise level and ~~diffusing~~ diffuses the flow pattern that would otherwise occur from said gases flowing through said at least one outlet vent.
9. (Currently Amended) In a device for delivering a supply of gases to a user as claimed in claim 7 ~~the improvement further comprising~~ wherein said disposable medium is a filter material.
10. (Currently Amended) In a device for delivering a supply of gases to a user as claimed in ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 to 4 wherein said patient interface comprises a nasal mask having a hard body portion, an inlet to said body portion receiving said supply of gases, sealing means mask seal engaged with said body portion, and adapted to seal against the facial contours of said user, and means of securement to said user providing a compressive force on said sealing means mask seal to ensure said supply of gases is delivered to a user without significant leakage, said vent comprising at least one aperture in said body portion.

11. (Currently Amended) In a CPAP system for delivering gases to a user including a pressurized source of gases, transport means in fluid communication with said pressurized source adapted to convey said gases, and a patient interface, including a body portion, in fluid communication with said transport means in use delivering said gases to said user, said patient interface including:

~~outlet means having at least one outlet vent,~~  
at least one aperture to allow passing of said gases to the atmosphere,  
a frame member mountable over said at least one aperture, and  
~~a removable diffusing member, and covering said vent, said outlet means in use passing a~~  
~~substantial portion of the expired gases of said user~~ said diffusing member being juxtaposed  
between said frame member and said at least one aperture.

12. (Currently Amended) In a CPAP system as claimed in claim 11 ~~the improvement further~~ comprising wherein said patient interface is a nasal mask.

13. (Currently Amended) A removable diffusing member for covering at least one vent in or adjacent a gases delivery patient interface, said diffusing member comprising: ~~a body adapted to~~  
~~in use pass a substantial portion of expired gases from a user and; means for removably~~  
~~connecting said body on or over a~~ a frame member and a disposable medium, said disposable  
medium adapted to be juxtaposed in use between said frame member and said at least one vent.

14. (Original) A removable diffusing member as claimed in claim 13 where said removable

diffusing member is adapted to in use diffuse and audibly muffle a substantial portion of the expired gases of a user flowing out from said at least one vent.

15. (Currently Amended) A removable diffusing member as claims in claim 13 or 14, wherein ~~said body includes a frame member and a disposable medium, said disposable medium adapted to be juxtaposed in use between said frame member and said at least one vent, and in use~~ a low resistance outlet being is formed by the flow of expired gases through said disposable medium, said removable diffusing member further comprising a high resistance outlet for the flow of expired gases if said low resistance outlet in use becomes blocked.

16. (Original) A removable diffusing member as claimed in claim 15 wherein said disposable medium is a filter material.